

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE

March 4, 2004

Meeting held at:

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

Balboa Park Administration
2125 Park Boulevard MS39
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Laurie Burgett
Darlene Davies
Vicki Granowitz
Jeffrey Kirsch
Dan Mazzella
Nancy Rodriguez
Paul Rucci
Joe Silverman
Warren Simon
Michael Stepner
Jeffery Tom (Arr 6:51 P.M.)

Members Absent

Staff Present

Michael Behan
Kathleen Hasenauer
Charlie Daniels
Beth Murray
Gary Stromberg

Staff Absent

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mazzella called the meeting to order at 6:38 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED, AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 5, 2004 MEETING AS AMENDED.
(SILVERMAN/RODRIGUEZ 8-0-1) ABSTENTION/STEPNER**

**Vicky Granowitz requested that Workshop Item 301 read: "...will write a letter for
committee to review."**

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

Information Item 502, Grape Street Park Off-Leash Improvements is not ready to move forward. The report has not yet been finalized. Input for the proposed schematic design is being sought from the Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee at their March 10 meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

John Rieger, CalTrans Project Manager, discussed the need to make repairs to the

Cabrillo Bridge. Pieces of concrete, some weighing fifty pounds, have fallen from the west side of the bridge. CalTrans has an agreement with the City to repair the area over the Rights-of-Way. They anticipate removal of the I-beam, repairing, patching, coloring and texturing the concrete. The utilities in the bridge interior will be inspected. The project should begin in two and a half weeks. CalTrans has met with a number of concerned groups. Temporary lane closure and repairs made during the week, not on weekends, has been proposed. They will accommodate special events. Tom Nipper is the CalTrans Public Information Officer.

Betty Peabody, former President of the Friends of Balboa Park, introduced Susan Hoekenga, the new President of the Friends of Balboa Park.

William Horlor, President of the House of England for more than sixteen years, is opposed to building additional cottages. He recalled an agreement to build eight cottages of four hundred-fifty square feet as opposed to four cottages of one thousand square feet. He is interested in future plans.

Dirk Dawson questioned bringing the Grape Street Off-Leash Improvements before the Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee again for additional public comment. He wants the problem to be solved.

Susan Mournian said that she has a letter from Council Member Atkins who is opposed to fencing at Grape Street. She cited the Freedom of Information Act and wishes to see the request from Council Member Atkins.

Steve Hill, District 3 Council Representative, responded that Council Member Atkins does not favor fencing the park, as long as there is shared use of the area. If new information is available, Council Member Atkins wants to be aware of additional issues and concerns. Diversity of opinion exists on this topic.

Donald Steele views the amended plan as an improvement for Grape Street Park. He advocates adequate fencing. Poway Dog Park was cited as a good model for off-leash areas.

Laura Emerick, a park neighbor, expressed concern for the hours of use. She feels that non-permeable fencing is needed to protect vegetation, trees and residents.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Mazzella is following up with the last report from the City Attorney regarding the Brown Act relative to public noticing for actions taken at sub-committee meetings.

STAFF REPORT

In the interest of time, reports were not given.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. None

Special Events

301. Biketober West

Kathleen Hasenauer, Balboa Park District Manager, provided a brief overview of the Special Event Permit Application (SEPA) process and introduced Karyn Damian, of Landlocked Pirate Enterprises, the professional organizer. The Balboa Park Committee members were provided a copy of the SEPA and the Biketober West web page printed on March 4.

The dates proposed for Biketober West, the First Annual West Coast Motorcycle Rally, which include set-up and dismantle are March 17 to March 22, 2004. The four day event includes a vendor village, food/beverage area, live entertainment, poker runs and a beer garden. Proceeds will benefit the Mickey Jones Foundation for Children, Make A Wish Foundation, the Veterans Memorial Center and the Veterans' Home in Chula Vista. Lower and Middle Inspiration Point, as well as portions of Presidents Way have been requested.

The members reviewed the information provided and queried the organizer. Concerns were voiced regarding the short time frame to process the event, parking/circulation issues, and the number of previously permitted events in the park, such as the Thursday Club Rummage Sale, Uptown Partnership Health Fair, Youth Fitness Expo and the Public Organ Concert. Empathy was expressed for the organizer. The requisite for City staff to plan and allow for adequate review of special events was voiced. Suggestions were made for other venues and the necessity to secure a location well in advance of the event.

Speakers Opposed To Project

Lieutenant Commander John S. Norwood, of the Naval Medical Center, San Diego (NMCSO), voiced concerns regarding noise and traffic. He was interested in the location of the sound system and the stages as they related to the NMCSO. He would like to attend the Production Meeting that Balboa Park staff has scheduled. Information regarding any Municipal Ordinances of noise in proximity to hospitals was requested.

Dr. Mick Hagger, Executive Director of the San Diego Natural History Museum, expressed his concerns that the event should not be accommodated in light of the other permitted events, regular park activities and a new exhibit opening at their museum. He requested that the committee deny the event. Adequate time should be allowed for review of special events.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF THE REQUEST TO USE BALBOA PARK FOR BIKETOBER WEST. (DAVIES/GRANOWITZ 9-0-1) ABSTENTION - SIMON

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Land Use, Circulation and Parking Study
Mark Johnson of CIVITAS, narrated a brief power point presentation. He discussed the need for a Special Meeting on March 18 to discuss their draft report. This would allow adequate time for review prior to the regular meeting on April 1. The ninety-seven page document has sixteen appendices and forty-six recommendations. Two workshops were held with the Planning Commission. The Committee agreed to a Special Meeting on March 18 at 6:00 P.M., in the Santa Fe Room.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. Italian Garden Modification in Old Globe Gardens – Gary Stromberg
Gary Stromberg provided a photo of the garden near the Old Globe. The proposal is for minor improvements to remove the decomposed granite, install lighting and relocate the large urn to a corner of the sunken garden. The site is not historic. He then introduced Michael Murphy of the Old Globe who was available to answer questions.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

601. Land Use and Strategic Planning – Laurie Burgett recommended that the Grape Street Park Off-Leash Improvements move forward to the full committee. Mike Behan responded to her questions regarding Capital Improvement Projects. The City web site has information in a PDF format. Funding sources vary and affect prioritization. Public Health & Safety are of primary concern. Charlie Daniels will make a copy of the map requested.
602. Policies and Operations – Nancy Rodriguez submitted the report via e-mail. A small portion of the Alcazar Garden parking lot is proposed for valet use. The need for more security to address drug sales/use and the affect of EarthFair on the entire park were of concern. It was proposed to ban alcohol use from 12:00 P.M., instead of 8:00 P.M.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Central Balboa Park Assembly – Nancy Rodriguez
Nancy Rodriguez stated that on March 1, the Central Balboa Park Assembly (CBPA) heard Karyn Damian's presentation on Biketober West, and did not support Balboa Park as a venue. Jeffrey Kirsch distributed a letter and invited the Balboa Park Committee to attend the monthly meetings. CBPA meets the first Monday of each month, with the exception of City holidays, at 8:00 A.M., at the Rondavel Room in the Zoo Warner Administration Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mazzella adjourned the meeting at 9:09 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting:

Thursday, April 1, 2004

6:30 P.M.

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room

2150 Pan American Road

San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Behan
Staff Representative

KH/tbg

